

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Sue Douglas (Chair)
Cllr Anne Kerry
Cllr Margaret Dye
Cllr Donna McLeod
Cllr Roddy McLeod

D/Cllr Richard Duffield
D/Cllr Roger Atterwill
Five members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Phil Collins, C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris and PC Paula Gilluley.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllrs Donna and Roddy McLeod declared an interest in item 7c.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2019.

Cllr Kerry proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Dye and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To receive a report from PC Gilluley, Community Engagement Officer.

PC Gilluley had sent her apologies.

5. Meeting open for public participation.

The following matters were raised by members of the public and will be raised with Highways.

- Can a speed limit be imposed on the Litcham Road which is becoming very dangerous and the site of recent accidents. Vehicles speed along the road which has poor visibility at the junctions.
- The gruts along the Litcham Road need clearing.

6. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

In his absence, the Chairman read a report received from C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris which detailed the following:

The Chancellor's Annual Spending Review committed an additional £1B for adult and children social care which will help support the local authority in meeting the rising demand for social care. Norfolk has the fastest growing over 65 age population in the country, with around 70% of the revenue budget spent on social care.

The Leaders Annual Review for 2018-19 is available on the County Council website.

A government grant is now available to households and businesses with low broadband speeds and details are on the Gov.UK website.

Councillors and members of the public were reminded to contact the Clerk with any highway defects as soon as they occur in order for them to be dealt with asap.

Works are programmed for the crossroads at Longham Hall which is currently very uneven, additional signage will also be erected to raise awareness of the junction.

D/Cllr Duffield made Council aware that he has 23 days to call a planning application into committee, no extensions are permitted. He also confirmed that landowners are responsible for hedgerows adjacent to the highway.

D/Cllr Atterwill also referred to the 23 days to call in a planning application and added that this was currently under review, together with other planning processes and he would update once any changes were confirmed. He went on to say that the Local Plan is still delayed and he has been unable to confirm whether Breckland currently has a five year land supply. However, once the Plan is ratified the working group meetings will resume.

A query was raised regarding the high number of charity shops in Dereham and it was confirmed that they did receive a reduction in business rates. However, Breckland run a scheme for start-up businesses which included a rate rebate in the first year.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their inputs.

7. To discuss planning issues:

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications to consider.

b) Decisions to note.

- 3PL/2018/1324/F – New dwelling – land off Ostrich Lane – appeal to Secretary of State – Council noted this appeal had been dismissed.

c) To note the application by Bittering Quarry to extend the recycling operation and storage of inert recycled materials until December 2021.

Council had raised no objections to the applications to extend the operations until December 2021.

8. To discuss Highway issues.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported.

The overgrown hedge at Hoe Road has now been cut back and visibility is greatly improved. The drain cover on the Honeypot Corner has not yet been repaired, despite being reported some time ago; Council will request an update.

b) To consider any new issues.

The following new issues were raised and will be reported:

- Flooding is an issue at the junction of Hoe Road and Litcham Road.
- Overgrown hedge between the two junctions on the Litcham Road.

9. To discuss any issues relating to the Playing Field.

a) To receive an update re the purchase of additional seating for the Playing Field.

A second quote of £350 had been obtained for installing the two seats, making a total of £658.00. This project is being funded by monies raised from the recycling containers at the village hall.

b) To receive a report regarding the refurbishment of the football pitch.

A grant application has been submitted for the outstanding amount required of £3,000.00.

c) To consider any actions in respect of the Play Area inspection report.

It was agreed, as a first step, to raise all issues with the supplier of the equipment.

d) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

10. To discuss issues relating to the Clay Pits.

a) To consider the issue of access.

Council agreed that a way forward would be to remove part of the post and rail fence and create a pull-in. Quotes will be obtained for the works.

b) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

11. To receive an update re the registration of Parish Council land.

The application is now with the land registry and can take up to three months for registration to be approved.

12. To discuss any issues regarding the Village Hall.

Paint and equipment had been purchased from a generous donation made to the Village Hall and the hall had been cleaned and decorated by a group of volunteers. In addition, both fire doors and the kitchen flooring are to be replaced.

13. To receive an update regarding the installation of a defibrillator.

Confirmation of a power source is awaited prior to the purchase of a unit. It was noted that the model selected should also be suitable for children.

14. Finance and Governance

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

Council noted the financial report and there were no queries raised.

b) To note the achievement of CiLCA by the Clerk and employment contract detail.

Council congratulated the Clerk, who was grateful for the support of the Council. The contract detail was noted.

c) To consider adoption of the General Power of Competence.

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

d) To consider any projects for the year commencing 1st April 2020.

There were no new projects for consideration.

e) To authorise financial payments as set out below:

Cllr Dye proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Donna McLeod and agreed by Council.

• Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Aug/Sept/CiLCA/expenses)	£333.79
• HMRC	£3.60
• Breckland (Election Costs)	£75.00
• Play Area Inspection	£54.00
• S Douglas (bus shelter renovation costs)	50.00

15. Correspondence for circulation

Council noted the following correspondence:

- Police Parish Newsletters
- Review of Breckland Polling Districts
- Farming & the Highways
- RAF Benevolent Fund
- NALC Initiative – Community, Well Being and Environment – Parish & Town Councils
- Disability Network Norfolk Group
- Minerals and Waste Review Consultation.

16. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items raised for the next agenda.

17. To note the date of the next meeting which will be held on Monday 18th November 2019 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:

Date:
